

Appln. No.: 08/886,516
Amdt. Dated March 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated December 23, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for verifying the source of an article of manufacture, and for controlling the production of the article of manufacture by a licensee, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) controlling a supply of labels from a licensor to the licensee to monitor the production of the article of manufacture;
 - ab) preparing a label by the licensee, the label having an unreproducible pattern and information relating to the article;
 - bc) processing the unreproducible pattern and including the processed unreproducible pattern with the information relating to the article;
 - ed) encrypting at least a portion of the information by the licensor relating to the article; and
 - de) securely associating the article, the label, and a tangible representation of the encrypted information.
2. (original) A method described in Claim 1 wherein said information included on said label includes verifying information for protecting against unauthorized use of duplicate labels.

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3. (original) A method as described in Claim 2 wherein said verifying information includes information consisting of: an expiration date, a unique identification of said article of manufacture, an identification of a provider of said article of manufacture, or information describing said article of manufacture.

4. (previously canceled)

5. (previously amended) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said unreproducible pattern is formed from magnetic fibers embedded in said label.

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6. (previously amended) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said encrypted information is encrypted with a first private key of a first public/private key pair and a corresponding first public key is available to parties who wish to validate the source of said article.

7. (original) A method as described in Claim 6 wherein a trusted third party provides a party producing said label with said first private key and with an encryption of said first public key by a second private key kept secret by said trusted third party, said producing party including said encryption of said first public key with said label and said trusted third party providing a corresponding second public key to parties who wish to verify the source of said article; whereby said parties can recover said first public key from said label so that articles from a large number of different sources can be verified without the need to maintain a corresponding database of public keys.

8. (previously canceled)

9. (previously canceled)

10. (previously canceled)

11. (previously canceled)